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REMARKS

I. Status of the Application

Claims 1, 3, and 5-13 were pending as of the date of the Office Action. In the Office Action, the Examiner:

- (a) suggested revisions to the title of the Application;
- (b) suggested revisions to the abstract of the Application;
- (c) objected to the specification for a particular language informality;
- (d) rejected claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,875,141 to Miyauchi ("Miyauchi");
- (e) rejected claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by or, in the alternative, 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Miyauchi; and
- (f) objected to claims 7-13 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

In this response, Applicants amend claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, and 12, cancel claim 7, and as requested by the Examiner, amend the title, abstract, and specification of the Application. Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing amendments and following remarks incorporated herein overcome the Examiner's rejections and objections to the Application.

II. No New Matter Is Introduced by Way of Amendment

Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by amending claims 1, 3 and 6. Applicants amended claims 1 and 6 in order to incorporate the limitations of original claim 7. In view of the amendments to claims 1 and 6, original claim 7 has been canceled. Applicants amended claim 3 so that it properly referred back to the correct limitations of amended claim 1 and amended claims 8, 10, and 12 so that each properly depended from claim 6. Applicants also amended the title, abstract and the specification of the Application as

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suggested by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments are supported by the originally filed Application and do not add new matter. Accordingly, Applicants request that the amendments be entered.

III. The Objections to the Title, Abstract and Specification Should Be Withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the Title, Abstract and Specification be withdrawn because Applicants have amended the Title, Abstract and Specification as suggested by the Examiner.

IV. The Rejection of Claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as Allegedly Being Anticipated by Miyauchi Should be Withdrawn

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 5 and 6 should be withdrawn because Applicants have amended claim 6, from which claim 5 depends, to incorporate the limitations of claim 7, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable subject matter (Office Action, pp. 9-10). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) are now moot and should be withdrawn.

V. The Rejection of Claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as Allegedly Being Anticipated by or, in the Alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as Allegedly Being Obvious Over Miyauchi Should be Withdrawn

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1 and 3 should be withdrawn because Applicants have amended claim 1, from which claim 3 depends, to incorporate the limitations of claim 7, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable subject matter (Office Action, pp. 9-10). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are now moot and should be withdrawn.

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VI. **The Objection to Claims 7-13 Should be Withdrawn**

The Examiner objected to claims 7-13 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but acknowledged that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form (Office Action, pp. 9-10). Based on this conclusion, Applicants amended claim 6 to incorporate the claimed subject matter of claim 7 and canceled claim 7. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 6 is now in allowable form and claims 8-13 no longer depend upon a rejected base claim but rather, now depend upon allowable claim 6. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objections to claims 8-13 and allow claims 8-13 to proceed to allowance.

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CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the Applicants have made a patentable contribution to the art and that this response places the above-identified application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 8-13 of this Application is therefore respectfully submitted. In the event the Applicants have inadvertently overlooked the need for payment of a fee, Applicants conditionally petition therefor, and authorize any fee deficiency to be charged to deposit account 09-0007. When doing so, please reference the above-listed docket number.

Respectfully submitted,

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